

## Message Text

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62

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY D/PW:FASIEVERTS:JS  
APPROVED BY D/PW: F. SIEVERTS  
EA/LC - MR. RIVES  
EA - MR. STEARNS  
DOD/ISA-DR. SHIELDS (SUBSTANCE)  
S/S - MR. LUERS

----- 115789

O 220106Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106727

EXDIS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: PW/MIA'S

1. MR. ROD NORDBERG, WHO HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN PW/MIA ACTIVITIES IN THE MIDDLEWEST, HAS INFORMED WASHINGTON OFFICIALS OF PROJECT INITIATED BY A PRIVATE DETECTIVE FROM GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. NAMED TED GREVERS TO RANSOM AMERICAN POW'S FROM CAPTIVITY IN LAOS. GREVERS, WHO REPORTEDLY WEIGHS 450 POUNDS, HEADS THE "FAT MAN DETECTIVE AGENCY" IN GRAND RAPIDS. HE REPORTEDLY ARRIVED IN VIENTIANE AROUND MAY 18 TO RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH TWO LOCALS CODENAMED "NAUTILUS" ( MALE) AND "SCORPIO" (FEMALE), WHO IN TURN CLAIM TO HAVE CONTACT WITH A PL GENERAL IN CHARGE OF A POW CAMP NEAR SAM NEUA HOLDING UP TO 300 "CAUCASIANS", INCLUDING NEWSMEN, PILOTS, AND "CIA TYPES.# GREVERS INFORMED NORDBERG AND HIS FRIENDS IN GRAND RAPDS HE NEEDS \$225,000 WITHIN A WEEK TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF TWO AMERICANS, SAID BY "SCORPIO" TO BE ALREADY ON OUTSKIRTS OF

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VIENTIANE. GREVERS CLAIMS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH BANK OF

INDOCHINA IN VIENTIANE TO ESTABLISH CREDIT RATING THERE, AS PART OF SCHEME TO ESTABLISH HIS ABILITY TO PAY THE RANSOM. HIS BANK IN GRAND RAPIDS REPORTEDLY CABLED STATEMENT OF GREVERS' FINANCIAL WORTH TO BANK OF INDOCHINA.

2. NORDBERG IS FAST-TALKING TYPE CURRENTLY SITTING IN GREVERS' GRAND RAPIDS OFFICE WITH GROUP OF MIA RELATIVES TRYING TO RAISE THE RANSOM MONEY FROM A RANGE OF PERSONALITIES INCLUDING BOB HOPE, BING CROSBY, JOHN WAYNE, LLOYD BUCHER, AND H. ROSS PEROT. GROUP HAS MET WITH LIMITED SUCCESS THUS FAR AND LATE MAY 21 MADE PITCH TO WASHINGTON OFFICIALS FOR USG MONEY FOR THIS PURPOSE. NORDBERG SAYS GREVERS AND HIS WIFE HAVE SIGNED A NOTE PLEDGING THEIR PERSONAL ESTATE IN AMOUNT OF \$200,000 AS SECURITY FOR THIS PROJECT.

3. NORDBERG SAID GREVERS HAS ELABORATE "FAILSAFE" PLAN WHEREBY NO MONEY WOULD BE PAID UNTIL THE TWO POW'S WERE FREED. HE CLAIMS FUNDS ARE HOWEVER NEEDED AT ONCE FOR DEPOSIT IN BANK OF INDOCHINA, TO PROVE GREVERS' ABILITY TO PAY WHEN POW'S ARE DELIVERED.

4. ALTHOUGH NORDBERG STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF SECRECY, HE HAS CONTACTED WALTER CRONKITE, WASHINGTON POST, AND POSSIBLY OTHER PRESS FIGURES IN HIS QUEST FOR FUNDS. CRONKITE TOLD DEPTOFF HE HAS ALERTED CBS CORRESPONDENT DON WEBSTER TO BE PREPARED TO GO TO VIENTIANE TO CONTACT GREVERS IF NECESSARY. POST MAY ALSO ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW UP.

5. IN A PROBABLY VAIN EFFORT TO INTRODUCE SANITY INTO THIS ENTERPRISE, DEPTOFF SUGGESTED GREVERS CONTACT DICK HOWLAND IN VIENTIANE TO DISCUSS PROJECT IN CONFIDENCE "TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY WAY US OFFICIALS CAN HELP." NORDBERG SAID HE WOULD SO ADVISE GREVERS WHEN HE TELEPHONES THIS EVENING, ALTHOUGH HE STRESSED THAT GREVERS WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO MAKE CONTACT OPENLY WITH A US OFFICIAL. DEPTOFF SAID HE THOUGHT CONFIDENTIAL CONTACT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE AND THAT DIALOGUE WITH AN EXPERIENCED U.S. OFFICIAL WAS ESSENTIAL TO GUARD AGAINST POSSIBLE CON GAME.

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6. COMMENT: DEPTOFF DID NOT SPECULATE ON GENESIS OF POSSIBLE CON. AT THE LEAST, FROM THIS DISTANCE GREVERS APPEARS TO BE A MORE THAN WILLING VICTIM. SUGGEST MISSION CHECK STORY OUT IN LOW KEY, ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH THE FAT MAN AS APPROPRIATE, AND ADVISE, IF POSSIBLE BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS HERE MAY 22.  
RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS, POW RETURN, FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PW/MIA'S  
**TAGS:** MOPS, LA, US, (GREVERS, TED)  
**To:** VIENTIANE  
**Type:** TE  
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